



The Road to Safety for Our Children

Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection

Presentation of

The Final Report Recommendations to
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

April 22, 2014

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION CHARGE

- Review delayed or failed prior reforms
- Review structural and organizational barriers
 - Consider DCFS structure and scope
 - Include DHS, DMH, DPH, Sheriff, DA and Dependency Court
- Review child protection failures, DCFS policies and cases

FACT FINDING PROCESS

- 15 public hearings
- 300 stakeholder interviews
- Focus groups (youth, birth parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, relative caregivers)
- Interviews of child welfare leaders
- Review of best practice literature
- Case file review
- Review of relevant previous recommendations

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review and prioritize all previous recommendations currently being implemented by DCFS
- Develop finely tuned process and outcome measures to assess system performance beyond just child fatalities
- **Concentrate resources on children under age 5**
- LA County Sheriff and Other Law Enforcement agencies should cross report child abuse allegations to DCFS
- E-SCARS should be used by all relevant agencies

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS

- DA should assume a greater oversight role
- Co-locate DCFS and Law Enforcement staff
- Expand utilization of Medical Hubs for children under age 1 investigated by DCFS and all detained children
- Pair a Public Health Nurse with a CSW in all investigations of children under age 1
- Make DPH evidence-based Home Visiting Program available for all children under age 1 seen at a Medical Hub

FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

How to Sustain Improvements:
Structural Recommendations

STRUCTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mission
- Create the Office of Child Protection
 - Lead joint strategic planning
 - Have oversight and authority over financial and staffing resources from all relevant Departments, as delegated by the Board
 - Coordinate funding streams
 - Review County Commissions for streamlining
 - Establish and evaluate outcomes
- Define measures of success and oversee the reform process

FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

What to Do:

Program Recommendations

IMPLEMENT INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Health Services
- Law Enforcement
 - E-Scars
 - Early Warning System (See Eckerd Recommendation)

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Resolve the out of home placement crisis
 - Kinship Care
 - Foster care recruitment
- Resolve the case management crisis
 - Strengthen Board oversight of DCFS Strategic Plan
 - Establish benchmarks for improvement
- Improve safety: Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback
- Comprehensive prevention system
- Training and workforce development

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Technology and data sharing
- Transparency and community engagement
- **Education**
- Mental Health

CONCLUDING REMARKS



Thank you
to the Board of Supervisors
for your commitment to
ensuring that all children in
Los Angeles County
grow up free from abuse and neglect.